

What is claimed is:

1 1. An electronic commerce goods ordering method comprising:
 2 specifying broad conditions for ordering a desired commodity by a
 3 consumer;
 4 searching a database for commodities having definite specifications
 5 meeting the broad conditions specified by the consumer;
 6 prioritizing the commodities found by said searching based on a
 7 distributor's sales strategy; and
 8 displaying to the consumer a subset of the commodities found above a
 9 predetermined distributor set priority level.

1 2. The electronic commerce goods ordering method according to Claim 1,
 2 wherein: the consumer, when ordering, is prompted to specify a category of a plurality of
 3 categories, said plurality comprising a "complete product," a "set of components," or
 4 "discrete components."

1 3. The electronic commerce goods ordering method according to Claim 1,
 2 wherein, the consumer, when ordering, is prompted to specify a type of food.

1 4. The electronic commerce goods ordering method according to Claim 1,
 2 wherein, the consumer, when ordering, is prompted to specify a restriction on diet.

1 5. The electronic commerce goods ordering method according to Claim 1,
 2 wherein, the consumer, when ordering, is prompted to specify a price constraint, said
 3 price constraint including low, medium, or high.

1 6. A method for displaying a limited list of goods to a consumer by a
 2 distributor over network, said method comprising:
 3 receiving a customer requirement for goods;
 4 retrieving from a database a prioritized list of goods meeting said customer
 5 requirement;
 6 forming a reduced list from said prioritized list of goods based on a
 7 predetermined restriction; and
 8 displaying high priority items from said reduced list to said customer.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said predetermined restriction is
2 selected from a group consisting of recency of order placement or seasonal basis of a
3 good of said prioritized list of goods.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said prioritized list of goods comprises
2 goods having promotion points, each good of said prioritized list of goods having zero or
3 more promotion points.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said promotion points comprise points
2 for excessive stock and sales campaign points.

1 10. A system for a consumer to view different levels in a distributor's
2 hierarchical list of goods, said system comprising:
3 a plurality of component dependency trees for goods maintained by a
4 distributor, wherein a component of a tree of said plurality of component dependency
5 trees has one or more sub-components;
6 a rating scheme for assigning promotion points to said one or more sub-
7 components, wherein a component rating is a sum of said component's sub-components
8 promotion points;
9 an user input for selecting a level of said component dependency trees, that
10 said user wants displayed; and
11 a distributor ordering mechanism based on said promotion points, such
12 that only a portion of goods available at said level is displayed to said user.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein said distributor ordering mechanism
2 selects goods for display to said consumer with promotion points above a predetermined
3 level.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein said distributor ordering mechanism
2 displays goods available at said level according to a predetermine order until a
3 predetermined number to be displayed is reached.

1 13. A plurality of tables stored in a computer readable medium for storing
2 promotion points related to an item offered by a distributor to a customer via a
3 communications network, said plurality of tables comprising:

